



Lake Views

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4 - FALL 2022

LAKE VIEWS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LAKE COUNTY

FALL INTO AUTUMN

With the changing of the leaves, the freshness of the crisp morning air, and enticing cozy beverages to consume, fall has arrived here in Lake County, along with a brand new addition to our Board! In this edition of "Lake Views", The Board of Commissioners welcomes Mark A. Tyler as our county's 80th Commissioner. We wish Commissioner Tyler nothing but the very best in his new role and you can read more about him in the article on Page 4.

Fall outdoor cleanup will soon be upon us and if you have any leaves or yard waste to dispose of, we'd like you to consider composting which results in nutrient-rich soil that you can use in your garden. Once Halloween has ended, don't be haunted by what to do with your old pumpkins, you can compost those as

well! Remember, never dump yard waste near a storm drain, ditch, or stream. For informational links on how to construct a residential compost bin, visit lcghd.org/solid-waste-landfill or call (440) 350-2543 with any questions.

Once November arrives, it's that time of year again; Daylight Savings Time that is! It ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 6th and we will be falling back. When changing your clocks, don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as well. This is also the perfect time to review the items in your emergency preparedness kit. For more information on creating one, visit readylakecounty.com.



COMMISSIONER / President
JOHN HAMERCHECK



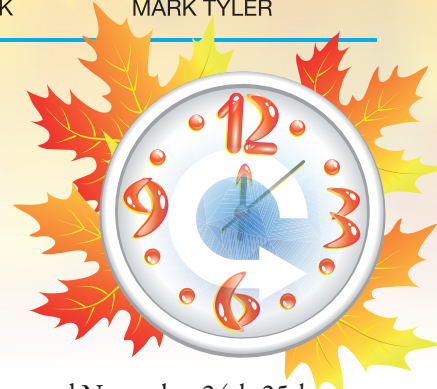
COMMISSIONER / Vice President
JOHN PLECTNIK



COMMISSIONER
MARK TYLER

Lastly, a quick reminder: All county offices will be closed Friday November 11th for Veterans Day, and November 24th-25th in observance of Thanksgiving.

The Board of Commissioners wish everyone a happy and healthy fall season! ■



MENTOR LAGOONS BOARDWALK PROJECT

Lake County residents, as well as birding enthusiasts from across the country, will soon be able to improve their view of the Mentor Marsh (located at 8365 Harbor Drive) in the coming months. Members of Mentor City Council, other elected officials, and representatives from partner agencies recently broke ground on a new

boardwalk project at the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve. The first two phases of the project include construction of an ADA-accessible, 442-foot boardwalk connected to the main trail head along with an observation deck on the western

edge of the Marsh, providing an ideal vantage point to view the flora and fauna that thrive there.

The cost of the first two phases is \$466,806, which is offset by two grants received through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Coastal Management Assistance Grants program

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BOARDWALK PROJECT

totaling \$233,403. This is a federally funded program through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The project is furthered assisted by a \$25,000 grant from the Lake County Visitor's Bureau, better known as Remarkable Lake County. The City of Mentor thanks ODNR, NOAA and Remarkable Lake County for their assistance and cooperation in partnering on this important project. Phases 1 and 2 are expected to be complete and open to the public by the end of 2022. Phase 3 of the project will include the construction of an 80-foot observation tower immediately adjacent to the observation deck looking out onto the western basin of the Marsh. Construction of this final phase is estimated to cost \$1.1 million. The City of Mentor has been granted \$450,000 in funding through the 2023-2024 State of Ohio Biennial Budget. Construction of the tower is estimated to begin in 2023.

The Mentor Marsh basin is one of the premier birding sites in Ohio. The marsh contains diverse wetland communities and habitat types that serve as important breeding and nursery areas for fish and waterfowl, as well as a 'stopover' resting site for neo-tropical birds and butterflies as they migrate up to several thousand miles in the spring and fall. Over 260 bird species have been recorded within or offshore of the Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Mentor Marsh. The large-scale removal of invasive phragmites, led by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, has increased occurrences of highly sought-after marsh birds. The potential for rare bird sightings and new breeding species continues to increase. All of these factors, as well as the abundance of protected species like the once rare Bald Eagle, have helped designate the Marsh as an Important Bird Area (IBA) within the Grand River-Lower Watershed.

For questions regarding the marsh, you can call the Parks Department at (440) 974-5720 or visit cityofmentor.com/departments/parks-recreation/facilities/mentor-parks. To learn more about birding opportunities in the Mentor Marsh basin, visit cityofmentor.com/birding. ■

LAKE COUNTY DOG SHELTER NEWS



October is "Adopt A Shelter Dog Month"

Please Consider Adopting from the Shelter

According to the National Today website, "there are approximately 5,000 community animal shelters nationwide and perhaps as many as 10,000 when including rescue groups and animal sanctuaries in the count." The Lake County Dog Shelter's Mission is to reunite stray dogs with their owner or find a new loving permanent home. Our current adoption fee is \$80.00 plus a \$20 registration fee. These fees include your new pet, a current dog license, a Veterinarian's Assessment and first visit discount, initial vaccinations, de-worming, and a registered microchip. Our phone is (440) 350-2640 and we are located at 2600 North Ridge Road in Painesville. **Note: Appointments are required to meet and greet adoptable dogs so

don't forget to call ahead and schedule your visit**

Don't Forget to Make Sure your Dog has a Current License! Mark it on your calendar.

We enforce Ohio dog laws to ensure that every dog in the county is wearing a current dog license. It's important that the public do their part by getting a current



dog license. A lot of pet owners have their animals microchipped, which is a great idea, should your pet become lost. Unfortunately, people don't always update their information with the microchip company preventing us from locating the owner. Remember, having a microchip does not replace a dog license (which is a law in the state of Ohio). A license helps us identify the owner and get the dog home as soon as possible! Fees are reduced for a current licensed dog in our facility and the owner won't receive a citation which could cost \$200 or more in court fines in Lake County. While licenses are on sale year-round, renewals go on sale from December 1st – January 31st. Licenses purchased after that time are subject to penalty fees.

Lake County Dog Park

The Lake County Dog Shelter has two public dog parks for our community to enjoy. We are happy to announce that we are in the process of/or have completed installing drinking fountains in our dog parks (adjacent to the shelter) for both humans and their furry friends. Just a reminder for those utilizing the park; they are self-maintained so please help us keep them clean and enjoyable for all!

Please visit our website at lakecountyohio.gov/dog-shelter/ for a list of our adoptable dogs, how to purchase a license, and information regarding our facility and donations. ■

Lake County Public Defender's Office

DEFENDING RESIDENTS RIGHTS IN



Walking into a courtroom to face criminal accusations, no matter how minor the crime, can be a daunting, frightening, and confusing experience. But you do not and should not have to go through the experience alone. A criminal conviction can have lifelong consequences that include more than the potential loss of your freedom. It can impact where you live, where you work, who your friends are, whether you can see your family, whether you can drive, and so much more. Your right to have an attorney defend you in court is constitutionally guaranteed -- even if you can't afford to hire an attorney. For the past 45 years, the Lake County Public Defender's Office has provided attorneys to juveniles and adults who face criminal charges but cannot afford an attorney. Public Defenders are involved in the majority of Lake County's criminal cases. They are essential to ensuring that our constitutional rights are not violated and that the criminal justice system functions fairly.

As a result, on any given day, attorneys from the Lake County Public Defender's Office can be found standing beside their clients as they participate in hearings and trials in Lake County's municipal and common pleas courts, as well as in

the 11th District Court of Appeals and the Ohio Supreme Court. To assist its 16 attorneys in preparing for cases and providing effective representation, the office also employs an investigator, a social worker, a community liaison, law clerks, legal interns, paralegals, and office and administrative staff. The office is funded by the Lake County Commissioners through the general fund; however, the majority of this cost is returned to Lake County by reimbursement from the Ohio Public Defender.

The Public Defender's Office believes in providing a community-oriented defense that addresses the needs of its clients beyond the courtroom. Many people caught up in the criminal justice system suffer from mental health problems or drug and alcohol addictions. The Public Defender's Social Worker has helped thousands of clients obtain inpatient and outpatient treatment to address their dependency and mental health issues in the hopes that, with treatment, they can lead crime-free lives.

During the past year, the office expanded to include a Community Engagement & Outreach Program designed to increase community involvement in the criminal justice system and assist those who have

been in jail get back on their feet as they return to the community. The coordinator of the new program connects clients to community resources that can assist with housing, transportation, vocational, educational and vital social services. ■



STATE APPROVES FUNDS FOR LAKE COUNTY DREDGING FACILITY

On April 4th, 2022, the State of Ohio's Office of Budget and Management Controlling Board authorized \$47 million to fund the construction of Sediment Recycling Facilities across the State of Ohio. Sometimes called a confined placement facility (CDF),

a CDF is an area specifically designed for the containment of contaminated dredged material from Lake Erie that provides control of potential releases of contaminants to the environment. Lake County will receive funds to construct a facility in

Painesville Township which is planned to be operational this fall.

The State funding came through largely as a result of State Senator Jerry Cirino (R-Kirtland) and State Senator Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) who worked very closely with Governor Mike DeWine, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and Representatives Jamie Callender (R-Concord) and Daniel Troy (D-Willowick) to secure \$11.3 million dollars to construct the North Park Sediment Recycling Facility.

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The Lake County
Board of Commissioners
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MARK A. TYLER SWORN IN AS 80TH LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

On Thursday June 23rd, the Lake County Board of Commissioners and staff welcomed Mark A. Tyler, former Mayor of the City of Kirtland, as the newest County Commissioner. Per Ohio Revised Code, Tyler was appointed by the Lake County Republican Party Central Committee on June 16th to become the 80th Commissioner of Lake County.

Commissioner Ron Young, who held the position since 2019, announced his retirement on April 28th and remained in office until May 4th. Commissioner Tyler's term started on June 23rd and runs through the end of the year.

Commissioner Tyler served as Mayor of the City of Kirtland for two terms (2007-2015) after serving as Council-at-Large (2001-2007). Before becoming Commissioner, Tyler earned the following degrees: an Associate of Arts from Lakeland Community College and both a Bachelors and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Cleveland State University.

Lake County Commissioner President, John R. Hamercheck, stated, "I am looking forward to working with Commissioner Tyler over the next few months. His experience, in both public and private service, make him an exceptionally qualified individual to meet the needs and challenges facing Lake County."

Commissioner Tyler was previously appointed to the Lakeland Community College Board of Trustees and the Health District Information Systems Board of Trustees. He is a graduate of Leadership Lake County and served on the Planning Advisory Committee for the Kirtland Comprehensive Plan as well as the Kirtland City Charter Review Committee. Tyler is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Kirtland, where he served as Distinguished President (1999-2000). He is a member of the Willoughby Area Rotary, Painesville Gyro, and Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). In his career as a Professional Engineer, Tyler was employed by: The Lubrizol Corporation in Painesville, Middough Associates in Cleveland, and First Energy at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant.

"Mark is a good man and I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with him in service to our Lake County residents," added Commissioner John Plecnik. "Years ago, he swore me in for my first term as a Willoughby Hills councilman so it is a great honor to come full circle and administer the oath of office to him as our 80th Commissioner in the history of Lake County." ■



Commissioner John Plecnik administers oath to new Commissioner Mark Tyler while his wife, Sandy, looks on.

Photo courtesy of The News Herald

DREDGING FACILITY

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The need was prompted by ORC 6111.32 which bans the disposal of dredged sediment from federal navigation channels into Lake Erie. As a result, the dredging of the Grand River in Fairport Harbor came to a halt last year posing a significant economic problem for the county as Fairport Harbor is Lake County's only commercial port. Losing it threatened about 170 jobs and over \$371 million dollars of commodities handled through the port each year. A loss of 1-2 feet of channel depth would increase transportation costs for local businesses by over a million dollars. The impact would be felt by major employers such as Morton Salt, Osborne Concrete and Stone, Carmeuse Lime & Stone, and R.W. Sidley. The harbor handles over 2 million tons of material every year.

The Lake Development Authority (LDA) was tasked by the Lake County Board of Commissioners to lead this project. LDA is the economic development arm of the Lake County Commissioners whose mission is to accelerate economic growth in Lake County. In this role, they are also responsible for implementing the Lake County Coastal Development Plan. In 2021, LDA entered into a Design, Build, and Operating Agreement with Independence-based Kurtz Brothers Inc. to design, construct, and maintain operations at the facility. Kurtz is a family-owned waste-to-resource company with 74 years of experience operating throughout the State of Ohio and the Midwest. They are a multi-faceted industry leader in bulk material production and distribution, beneficial reuse, and waste stream management.

Kurtz Brothers are also donating a permanent easement to Lake Metroparks for a Lakefront Trail connecting Painesville Township Park to Fairport Harbor. This has been a long-term project that the North Park Sediment Facility will help come to fruition. The proposed trail will be a paved 2.5 mile long bicycle and pedestrian path and will be one of the longest lakefront trails on the Great Lakes, providing another world-class amenity to Lake County residents.

To date, dredging has begun and the facility is partially completed. It started accepting sediment in August with the recycling portion of the facility targeted for completion by the end of the year. Furthermore, Lake Metroparks has primarily completed the design and engineering for the first phase of the trail on the Kurtz property with construction expected to begin in 2023. ■